by NRIs/PIOs having atleast 60% of beneficial interest in such bodies in the housing and real estate development sector. Liberalisation of the scheme and its extension to all potential investors, including multi-national companies, is under consideration.

Migration from Villages to Mega Cities

2147. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of Mr. Klans Toepfer, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Centre of Human Settlement (HABITAT) in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th January, 1999 to the effect that about half of India's population would be urban at the dawn of millennium putting further pressure on cities already crumbling due to lack of planning;

(b) whether Government have taken/ propose to take measures to check migration of people to mega cities from villages and small towns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the Government of India emphasises population control measures through family welfare schemes, as regards migration to mega cities from rural areas and small & medium towns, the approach of the Government is to address the problem through Rural Development Schemes and the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). The various rural development programme such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurances Scheme (EAS), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Rural Water Supply (RWS) etc., formulated by the Government of India emphasises the creation of job opportunities in villages through public works, employment and income generating programmes, etc. The IDSMT Scheme aims at the development of selected regional growth centres with key infrastructure so as to enable them to function as generators of economic growth and employment and to minimise the incentive of migrants belonging to villages and small & medium towns to move to large cities.

Further envisaging the urgent need to check migration to metropolitan areas, the Ministry proposed the New Township Development Scheme to the Planning Commission. The Scheme aims at development of Townships about 40-60 kms away from metropolitan areas linked through fast transport corridors. The scheme has not been approved by the Planning Commission due to paucity of funds.

Enforcement of Urban Land Ceiling (Repeal) Ordinance

2148. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land released with abatement of litigation as a result of enforcement of the Urban Land Ceiling (Repeal) Ordinance in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and in different State and Union Territories;

(b) how much of it is proposed to be utilised for alleviating under the new housing policy; and